

Maj. Gen. Tad Oelstrom, 3rd Air Force commander, prepares for his final flight with Capt. Steve Madson, 494th Fighter Squadron weapon systems officer, while A1C Cole Fricke looks on Wednesday. It was the final time for Oelstrom to suit up with the Liberty Wing. He is leaving 3rd Air Force to take over as superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy.



Photo by SSgt. Val Weaver

3rd AF commander says 'farewell'

By Maj. Gen Tad J. Oelstrom
3rd Air Force Commander

One of the most difficult things a commander ever has to do is say farewell to his command. While Sandy and I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities coming with our next assignment to the Air Force Academy, the happiness is tinged with regret that we must say good-bye to the men and women who have served this command so well.

Over the past two years, we have had some exciting times as 3rd Air Force picked up responsibility for all Air Force activities north of the Alps and across much of sub-Saharan Africa. We sent large numbers of people to preserve the peace in Bosnia and monitor the

no-fly zone in Iraq. We evacuated American citizens from civil conflicts in Western and Central Africa, and moved peacekeepers into Liberia. We participated in numerous exercises and inspections, and always came out well ahead.

We reorganized, downsized, grew and repostured ourselves into a warfighting numbered air force. We invested millions of dollars in renovation and construction projects to improve the infrastructure and quality of life on our bases for our people. We completed countless projects, special events and other activities. It has been very busy and wonderfully rewarding.

Needless to say, there was a lot of "you" and very little "me" in this "we." I want to thank you for making this tour so exciting, productive and enjoyable. I am very proud of you and wish you well in the days ahead.

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions, or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call (Ext. 2324), fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), send through distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names are confidential.



F. Precious
48th Fighter Wing
commander

Action lines

The RAF Lakenheath community lost one of its valued members. Frederick John Precious passed away June 27. Better known as just John, he worked in the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron's liquid fuels maintenance section. John had been at Lakenheath since October 1989 and had always performed outstandingly. One of two awards he recently earned was the 'Wing Environmental

Quality Champion Award" for his constant awareness of pollution controls and clean-up efforts during base fuel spills. The second award John earned was Quality Champion Award from the civil engineer executive quality council for his dedication in striving for customer satisfaction, his excellent work documented by customer feedback comments. His early departure was due to cancer that was discovered too late for successful treatment. John's expertise and friendship will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



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